



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
1301 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON DC 20004

DATE: April 19, 2021

PREPARED BY: Special Agent (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CASE #: OI-HQ-2021-ADM-0037

CROSS REFERENCE #: Hotline 2021-0038

TITLE: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA

CASE CLOSING REPORT

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

POTENTIAL VIOLATION:

18 U.S. Code § 287 – False Claims

ALLEGATIONS:

The EPA OIG Hotline received an email complaint stating that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA relocated (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) but were still on the EPA payroll collecting a salary. OI received a second allegation, stating (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) salary should have reverted to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) , as by relocating to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) should have no longer received the Washington D.C. locality adjustment of 30.48 percent but should only have received the (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) locality adjustment of 20.12 percent, which would be a 10.36 percent reduction in federal salary.

OI received a third complaint inquiring as to what work (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) had performed since relocating to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). The complainant stated that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was still apparently on the payroll; however, the complainant had not seen an email or heard anything about (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) work in more than a year. Finally, the complainant asked OI if (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was working and collecting a salary from the agency and how (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was exempt from the rules of working in an office where you are assigned.

FINDINGS:

ALLEGATION 1

OI received information from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, EPA, that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) separated from the agency in (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 2019, on (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 2019. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) only worked 40 hours during that pay period and was paid on (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 2019. On (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 2019, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) received compensation for (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) annual leave lump sum payment of 150 hours.

With respect to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), OI was advised by the Research Triangle Park, Human Resources Shared Service Center (HRSSC) that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) effective date for reassignment was on (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 2019, to the position of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). Relocation for this reassignment was not paid. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) remained in this position and on the EPA payroll until (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) resignation effective on (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 2021.

ALLEGATION 2

The Acting Director of the Cincinnati HRSSC informed OI that locality adjustments only apply to the General Service pay system and do not apply to executive level pay. Consequently, executives would not have their pay adjusted based on a locality move up or down.

ALLEGATION 3

To address the allegation, OI reviewed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) emails. OI noticed a consistent daily email pattern of emails sent and received, except for days (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was on leave or official government travel. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) had approximately 65,000 emails in (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) inbox.

DISPOSITION: Unsupported; Closed
 Unsupported: Closed
 Unsupported: Closed

Based upon the aforementioned information, the allegations were unsupported. As there are no further investigative steps to be taken, the case agent recommends the closing of this case.